

Water Quality Protection Division



Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Region 6 Update

Subject: Water Quality Update # 3
Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

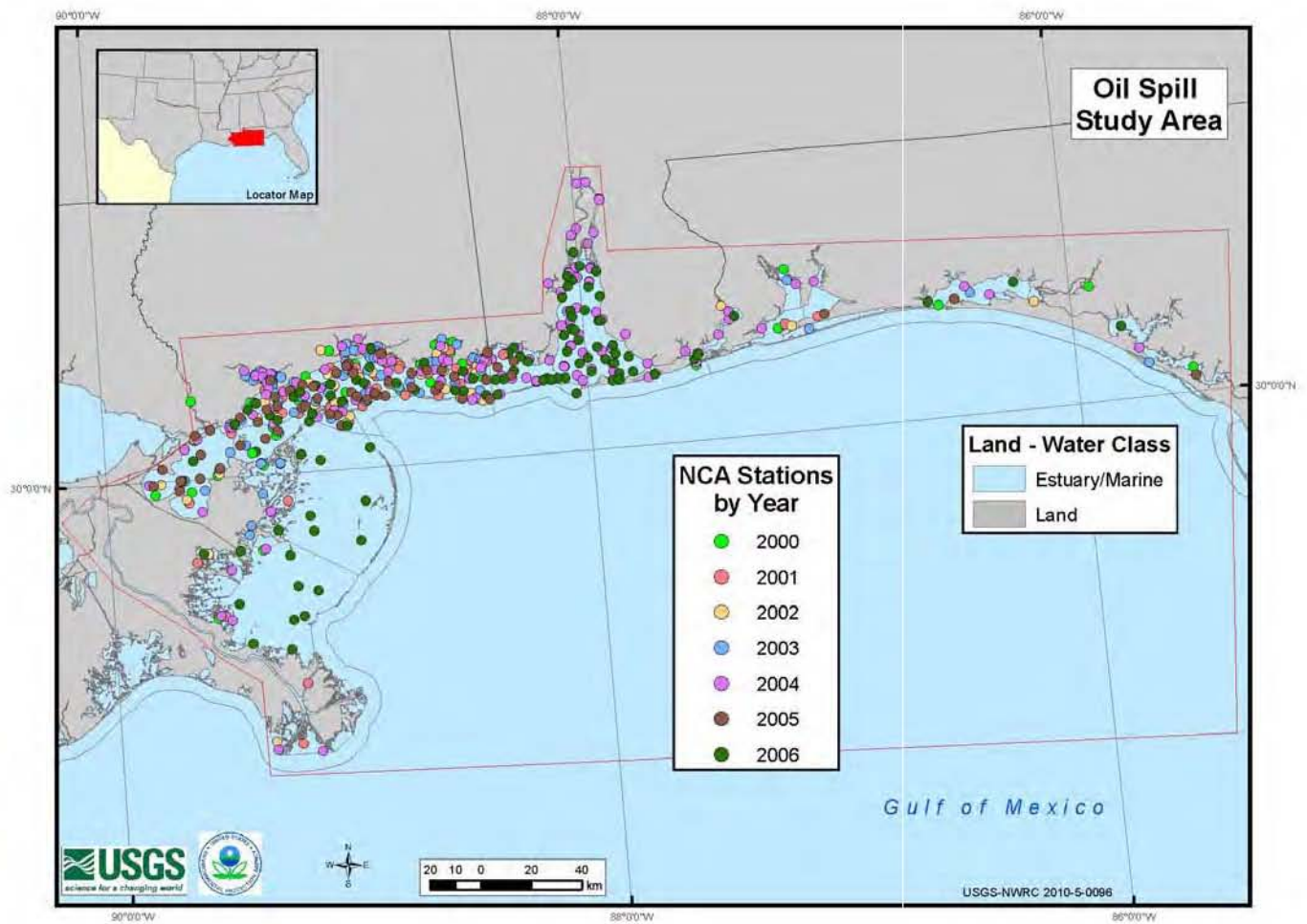
Date: May 5, 2010

Reporting Period: May 4, 2010 1300 – May 5, 2010 1300

Situation Status

Monitoring and Assessment

- Matt Hubner provided comments on the QASP over the weekend. Comments regarded the use of specific species for adequate toxicity results.
- Philip Crocker and Matt Hubner reviewed and commented on QASP for water monitoring. Comments consisted of additional sampling procedures to avoid site disturbances as well as increased toxicity testing in the methodology.
- Philip Crocker, Renee Bellew, and Matt Hubner attended a conference call with the Monitoring and Assessment section regarding the collection of baseline and existing data for the impact area.
- Renee Bellew and Matt Hubner have worked on standardizing existing databases to develop a table of benchmarks for data comparison. This will be critical for evaluation of samples currently being collected in Louisiana.
- On May 30, at the request of the OSC, several Ecosystem Protection Branch staff had a conference call with BP, based on the presumption that BP could conduct additional monitoring of the spill or assess environmental effects. BP was involved in air monitoring and apparently has had contractor support to assist on the NRDA work which the trustees are conducting. We shared ideas and options with regard to open Gulf monitoring or conducting sampling or monitoring not currently being conducted. However, BP did not indicate they could conduct the additional monitoring, thus it appeared that there may have been confusion concerning their ability to perform such work. They were very cooperative and supportive of the sampling underway.
- LDHH and TX GLO have reported no signs of oil (visible sheens, odors) on coastal beaches since the spill. LDHH pulled grab samples for hydrocarbon analysis from Fourchon, Grand Isle, and Lake Pontchartrain beaches on May 3. Both agencies will continue to implement routine beach monitoring and notification programs as scheduled.
- LDEQ advised that DHH and DWF have been collecting baseline tissue samples from oysters, finfish, shrimp, crabs, and water to be analyzed for TPH and PAHs. Splits will be produced for FDA to have so they may analyze for their regulatory thresholds. The data will be used for advisory need determination and to provide baseline NRDA data.
- Data analysis call: OW Monitoring Branch is working with ORD Gulf Breeze to summarize historic National Coastal Survey data to establish a baseline conditions for comparison with newly collected data - turnaround time may be two weeks or longer with internal reviews. NOAA called-in to provide a brief overview of NRDA assessments targeting various ecosystem components. While some baseline data collection work is underway, as reflected in LDEQ's report (the NRDA assessments are not released to the public, because the purpose is for building a legal case).

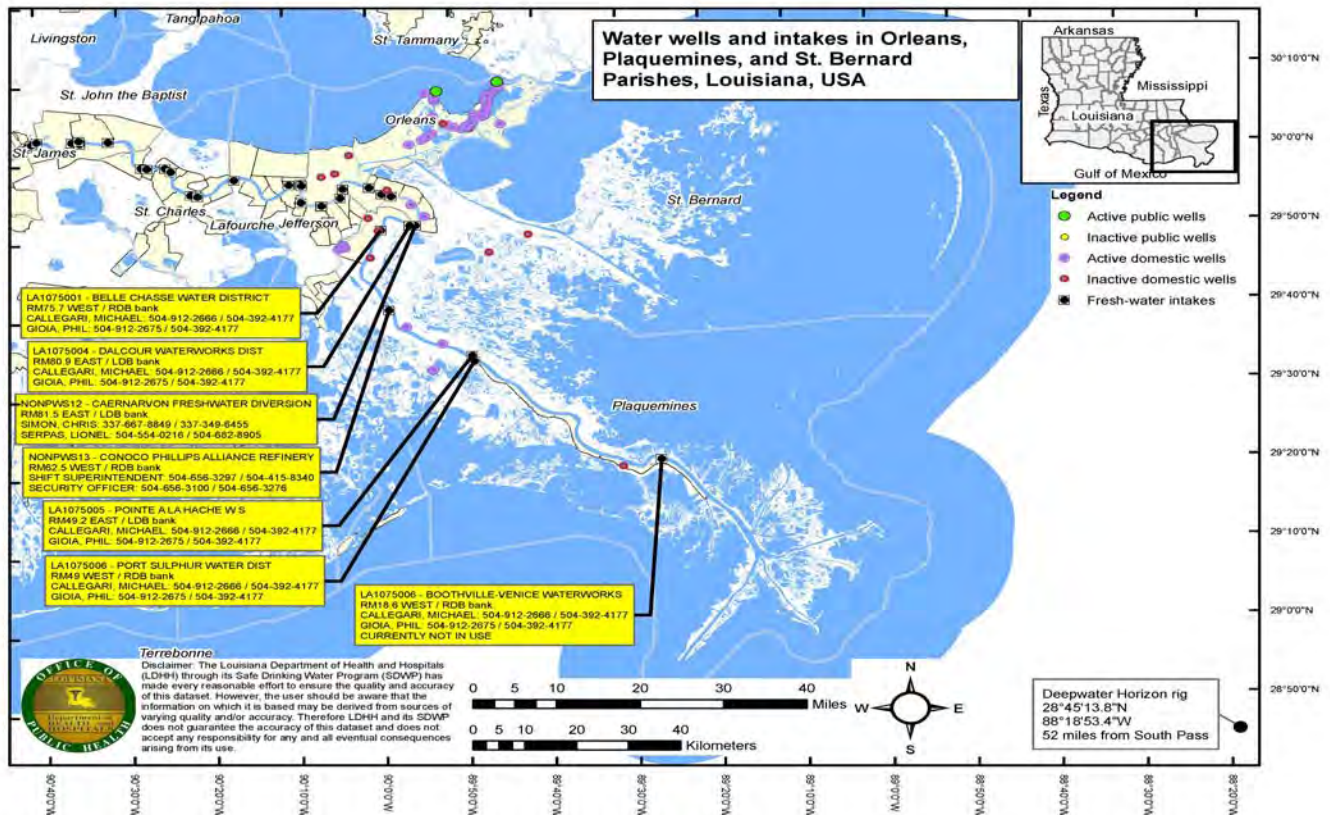




Drinking Water:

- Responded to numerous information requests concerning drinking water quality.
- Answered drinking water questions related to a “worst case scenario” in order to prepare for such an event, if necessary.
- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen and are not projected to be impacted.
- Neither EPA nor the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) regulates industrial cooling or processing tank intakes nor do we regulate drinking water in offshore vessels or rigs.
- Continue to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

Map (next page)



The following gives an explanation of the map legend on the next page:

- Active public well – a public water system well that is in use
- Inactive public well – a public water system well that is no longer in use
- Active domestic well – an individual's well (non-regulated) that is in use
- Inactive domestic well – an individual's well (non-regulated) that is no longer in use
- Fresh water intakes – encompasses all data available on fresh water intakes. All drinking water intakes are plotted however industries can report on a voluntary basis. Intakes labeled with LAXXXXXXX are drinking water intakes and those labeled NONPWS are industrial intakes.

Data Management - Mapping efforts related to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

- Members of the Surface Water Center have been supporting the Division planning efforts providing maps of:

Coastal Louisiana and 6 digit subsegments

Coastal area and National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA) sites

Coastal elevations

- Data sets of National Wetlands Index (NWI), bathymetry, endangered species, shipping lanes and fairways, marine protected areas and national wildlife refuge areas were added to the data holdings of the Region 6 library.

SE Louisiana NPDES Facilities With SIC Codes Most Likely to Have Water Intakes

To open map as PDF document that can be zoomed in on,
right click and select "Acrobat Document Object", then click "Open"

